

who came to visit him. But we will also remember George Washington and how, on a dark December 25th he led his improbable army across an ice-choked river to give a people struggling for independence hope that they might one day be free.

Thank you very much, Professor George, for having me here this afternoon. James Madison told us, in words that I understand are now inscribed in Corwin Hall, that a well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people. The gatherings you have here at Princeton under the auspices of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions contribute to our instruction—and to our freedom.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN “CHIP” ROBERTS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of John “Chip” Roberts, Director of the Colorado Division of State and Veterans Nursing Homes.

John “Chip” Roberts retired on January 15, 2002. He served older Americans for nearly twenty-two years. For the past eleven years, Chip worked for the Colorado Department of Human Services as Director of the Colorado Division of State and Veterans Nursing Homes. Previously, he worked in the private sector as both a nursing home administrator and a regional director. As Division Director of the Colorado State and Veterans Homes, Mr. Roberts oversaw the operations of five State nursing facilities totaling 582 beds. Four of the State homes provide skilled nursing care to military veterans and their spouses and widows. Under Mr. Roberts’ leadership, the State homes program made numerous improvements in service delivery. Chip was always quick to credit the dedicated staff at each facility for the overall success of the program.

Since 1997, in response to legislation authorizing the construction of a new State veterans home at the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, Chip was deeply involved in the design and development of the new 180 bed facility. Throughout the project, Chip continually encouraged the need to be highly flexible in the design in order to allow for the future health care needs of the residents. In addition, to skilled nursing care, the Fitzsimons facility will offer dementia services and adult day care.

During his years of service to the State of Colorado, Chip’s dedication to veterans and their families was readily apparent. He made frequent presentations to publicize the State and veterans homes programs and to inform various organizations of the services available. He has been steadfast in his commitment to “serve those who have served.”

Chip and his wife of twenty-seven years, Judith, are looking forward to retirement with the shared desire to continue serving others, especially in their local church and the city of Arvada. The Roberts’ have one daughter, Vanessa, a recent graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Besides volunteer service, Chip is looking forward to enjoying the great Colorado outdoors: hiking, hunting, and fishing. I wish them Godspeed.

IN COMMEMORATION OF INDIA’S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today in commemoration of India’s Republic Day. As the adoption of our constitution and declaration of Independence in the 18th Century are among the most important days in the history of the United States, so too is January 26, 1950 in India. In the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi, India joined the community of democratic nations by adopting its Constitution that embodied many of the principles, including equality and secularism, put forth by our own founding fathers.

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate this event, as this is not simply a day for Indians, but for Indian-Americans as well. The streets of my district in Jackson Heights, New York will be filled tonight with thousands of my constituents honoring this important day.

The bond that India and the United States share is not simply rooted in the democratic foundations, but also in democratic practices. Allying the world’s oldest democracy with the world’s largest democracy is a natural fit. I believe that India’s Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said it best when he spoke of the adoption of India’s Constitution: “There is one great test for a Constitution, for any system of Governance. It must deliver and it must be durable. Our Constitution has stood this test. And one reason it has been able to do so is that it embodies a mastery balance: between the rights of the individual and the requirements of collective life; between the States and the Union; between providing a robust structure and flexibility. Our Constitution has served the needs of both India’s diversity and her innate unity. It has strengthened India’s democratic traditions.”

The shared history and common conception for the future of our relationship has allowed our nations to cooperate in times of prosperity and assist each other in times of tragedy. This year’s Republic Day is bitter-sweet as it also commemorates the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001. The earthquake, centered in India’s state of Gujarat and measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale, killed more than 20,000 people. During those difficult times, we were there for India both in spirit and in practice. Shortly after the earthquake, the United States Congress adopted a Resolution expressing condolences for the victims and support for providing assistance. I am proud to report that Congress also responded to my efforts in increasing the funding for the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, specifically targeting the efforts in India.

Just as we came to the aid of India, they were among the first to condemn the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Since that horrific day, high-level contacts between the U.S. and India have increased, reflecting the close cooperation between the world’s two largest democracies in the struggle against international terrorism. Unfortunately, the scourge of terrorism is another characteristic that our countries now have in common.

The December 13, 2001 attack on India’s Parliament hit very close to home. As nine police officers and a Parliament worker were killed we were forced, once again, to redefine the scope and definition of the war on terrorism. This attack sought to destroy the heart of India’s democracy, but will fail in that endeavor.

The common interests of the United States and India transcend the boundaries of the international war on terrorism. There has been ever-increasing cooperation in dealing with the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, preserving stability and growth in the global economy, protecting the environment, combating infectious diseases and expanding trade.

As a member of the Indian Caucus with a growing Indian constituency, my interest in the region has grown exponentially during my time in Congress. I have to say, however, that nothing was more eye-opening than my visit to India a few weeks ago. To get a true sense of the interests of the people and the government on the ground was invaluable, and will surely help me represent the views of my constituents more completely in the future.

With that, I wish to salute India for fifty-one years of work in pursuit of preserving democracy. It is my honor to join you as you continue that journey into the new millennium.

KAHLI RIES: A YOUNG PATRIOT FOR A BETTER FUTURE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kahli Ries of Mayville, Michigan, upon the occasion of her winning the 2001–02 statewide Voice of Democracy Program speech-writing contest sponsored by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary.

At a time when our country is engaged in a war against terrorists who threaten our American way of life, it is especially gratifying to honor Kahli for displaying in the words she has written a brand of patriotism to which all citizens should aspire. In her award-winning essay, Kahli expresses the hopes and dreams of our nation’s younger generation and she calls on her peers to take the responsibility to shape a better future. Her simple yet powerful words are reassuring to those of us in older generations that the future is in good hands.

Kahli, a ninth-grade student at Mayville High School, stands as a shining example of why America has time and again come together in times of crisis and risen to even the most difficult challenges. In her speech, Kahli has reached back in our history to capture the same sense of freedom and responsibility that our forefathers and many patriots since our founding have relied upon to build a better future for their descendants and others who followed.

Let me share an excerpt of her essay: “I hope America will be a place where not only we will be physically safe and morally safe, but our freedoms will be preserved as well. I see a place where people won’t be afraid to walk down the streets or open their mail. I believe in our country and our dedication to our